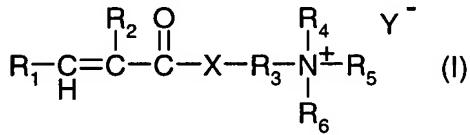


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (currently amended): An aqueous household cleaning or laundry care formulation comprising a cationic polymer and wherein the cationic polymer is formed from
 - a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers selected from the group consisting of cationic, non-ionic, and anionic, wherein comprising at least one monomer is cationic monomer
 - b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of more than [[50]]500 ppm by the weight of component a)
 - c) and at least one chain transfer agent.
2. (original): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1 wherein the cationic polymer is added to the formulation while in the form of particles, which have a volume average size of below 10 microns.
3. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein component a) is formed from 30 to 100 wt-%, based on the total weight of component a), of at least one cationic monomer and 0 – 80 wt-% of at least one monomer which is non-ionic or anionic.
4. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the cationic monomer of component a) is a compound according to formula (I)



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

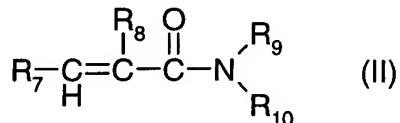
R_3 is $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkylene,

R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

X is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$ and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogen sulphate or methosulfate.

5. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the non-ionic monomer of component a) is N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or a compound of formula (II)



wherein

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_8 signifies hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, and

R_9 and R_{10} signify independently from each other hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl.

6. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers.
 7. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.
 8. (cancelled).
 9. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is included in the range of 500 – 1000 ppm based on the component a).
 10. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is selected from the group consisting of mercaptans; malic acid, lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.
 11. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is present in a range of from 10 to 50000 ppm based on the component a).

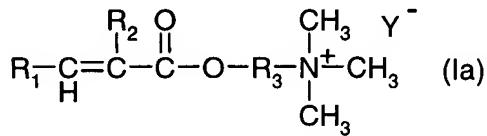
12. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is present in a range of from 100 – 10000 ppm based on the component a).

13. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the formulation comprises 0.005 to 15 wt-% of the cationic polymer.

14. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the formulation comprises 0.01 to 10 wt-% of the cationic polymer.

15. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1, wherein the formulation contains

a) 0.01 – 5 wt-% of a cationic polymer and wherein the cationic polymer is formed from at least one compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₃ is C₁-C₂alkylene and

Y is Cl; Br or I, and

b) at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of 500-100050—1200 ppm based on the component a), and

c) at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount an amount of 1000 – 9000 ppm based on the component a).

16. (cancelled).

17. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 15, wherein at least one cross-linking agent is included in an amount of 700 – 900 ppm based on the component a).

18. (previously presented): An aqueous formulation according to claim 15, wherein at least one chain transfer agent is present in an amount of 2000 – 5000 ppm based on the component a).

19. (cancelled).

20. (previously presented): A fabric softener composition comprising

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of cationic quaternary ammonium salts; tertiary fatty amines having at least one C₈-C₃₀alkyl chains, carboxylic acids having 8 to 30 carbons atoms and one carboxylic group per molecule; esters of polyhydric alcohols; fatty alcohols; ethoxylated fatty alcohols; alkylphenols; ethoxylated alkylphenols; ethoxylated fatty amines; ethoxylated monoglycerides; ethoxylated diglycerides; mineral oils and/or polyols;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer according to claim 1;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) water to 100 %.

21. (previously presented): A fabric softener composition according to Claim 20 comprising

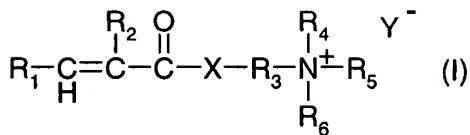
- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of a fabric softener;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer;
- C) 0 to 20 % wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) 0 to 5% wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume, and
- E) water to 100 %.

22. (previously presented): A fabric softener composition according to claim 21 comprising

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives;
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:

- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
 - ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
 - iii) mixtures thereof, and
- F) water to 100 %.

23. (original): A fabric softener composition according to Claim 20, wherein the customary additives are alcohols; polyhydric alcohols; amphoteric and nonionic surfactants; oxyethylated fatty alcohols; hydrogenated and ethoxylated castor oil; alkyl polyglycosides; fatty alcohols; fatty acid esters; fatty acids; ethoxylated fatty acid glycerides; or fatty acid partial glycerides; inorganic or organic salts; non-aqueous solvents; pH buffers; perfumes; dyes; hydrotropic agents; antifoams; anti redeposition agents; enzymes; optical brighteners; antishrink agents; stain removers; germicides; fungicides; antioxidants; corrosion inhibitors; dye fixing agents; dye transfer inhibitors; wrinkle recovery agents and/or wet soiling reduction agents.
24. (currently amended): A cationic polymer formed from
- a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers selected from the group consisting of cationic, non-ionic, and anionic, whereinaeomprising at least one monomer is cationic monomer
 - b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of more than 600 ppm by the weight of component a)
 - c) and optionally at least one chain transfer agent.
25. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to Claim 24, wherein the component a) comprises 30 to 100 wt-% of one cationic monomer and 0 – 80 wt-% of a monomer which is non-ionic or anionic.
26. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to Claim 24, wherein the cationic monomer of component a) is a compound according to formula (I)



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

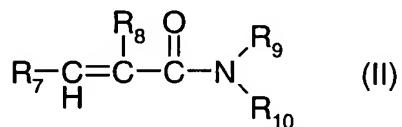
R_3 is $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkylene,

R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

X is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$ and

Y is Cl ; Br ; I ; hydrogen sulphate or methosulfate.

27. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the non-ionic monomer of component a) is N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or compounds of formula (II)



wherein

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_8 signifies hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl, and

R_9 and R_{10} signify independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl.

28. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N' -methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers.

29. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N' -methylene-bisacrylamide.

30. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is included in the range of 650 – 1200 ppm based on the component a).

31. (cancelled).

32. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is included in the range of 700 – 900 ppm based on the component a).

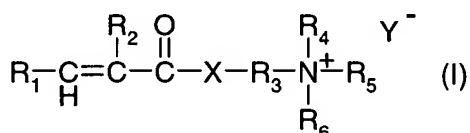
33. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is selected from the group consisting of mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid, formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.

34. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is present in a range of from 10 to 50000 ppm based on the component a).

35. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is present in a range of from 100 – 10000 ppm based on the component a).

36. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, formed from

- a) 30 to 100 wt-% of at least one compound according to formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

R₃ is C₁-C₄alkylene,

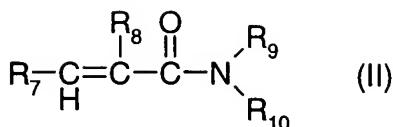
R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

X is -O- or -NH- and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogen sulphate or methosulfate, and

0 – 80 wt-% of N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or

at least one compound of formula (II)



wherein

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

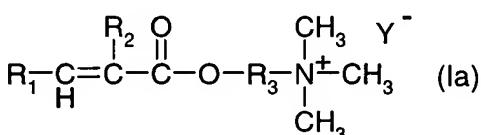
R_8 signifies hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl, and

R_9 and R_{10} signify independently from each other hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_4$ alkyl,

- b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of 700 – 900 ppm based on the component
 - a) selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N' -methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, and
 - c) from 0 to 50000 ppm based on the component a), of at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.

37. (previously presented): A cationic polymer according to claim 24, formed from

- a) 30 to 100 wt-% of at least one compound according to formula (Ia)



wherein

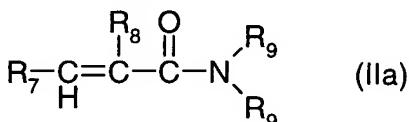
R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_3 is $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_2$ alkylene and

Y is Cl; Br or I, and

0 – 80 wt-% of at least one compound of formula (IIa)



wherein

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_9 signifies hydrogen; methyl; ethyl or propyl,

- b) 700 – 900 ppm (based on the component a) of at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, and
- c) from 100 – 10000 ppm based on the component a) of at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.